



## 2015 DECEMBER CALENDAR

# BLACKSTONE RIVER & CANAL HERITAGE STATE PARK

River Bend Farm Visitor Center is located at 287 Oak Street Uxbridge MA 01569

Visitor Services Supervisor: Kathryn Park Phone Number: 508-278-7604

All programs are free and open to the public. Children must be accompanied by adult.

Reasonable accommodations available upon request. Guided tours for groups with advance notice.

For more information please call the park or online at

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/massparks/region-central/blackstone-river-and-canal-heritage-state-park.html>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 Kidleidoscope Story Time 10:30-11:30	5 First Holiday Night 4:30-8:00pm
6 Meadow Stroll 11-12 Hike to Goat Hill Lock 1:00-2:30	7	8	9	10	11 Kidleidoscope Story Time 10:30-11:30	12
13	14 Brown Bag Along the Blackstone 12:00-1:00 Canal Walk 1:00-2:00	15	16	17	18 Kidleidoscope Story Time 10:30-11:30	19 Tree Walk 12-1 Nature Journals and Sun Prints 1:00-1:30 Evergreen Walk 2-3
20 Solstice Sunrise Walk 7:00-8:00am Watching Wildlife 1:00-1:30	21 Brown Bag Along the Blackstone 12:00-1:00 Canal Walk 1:00-2:00	22	23	24	25 CLOSED	26 Evergreen Walk 2-3



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27	28 <b>Brown Bag Along the Blackstone</b> 12:00-1:00 <b>Canal Walk</b> 1:00-2:00	29	30	31		
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## RIVER BEND FARM VISITORS CENTER

<b><i>Following the Plough Exhibit</i></b> at River Bend Farm Visitors Center	The Visitors' Center is open from 10-4 daily. Our exhibit "Following the Plough" explores the story of the Blackstone Valley and its communities from pre-European settlement through European style agricultural development, industrialization, and into today. Guided tours for groups with advance notice. Free Admission. Accessible.
<b>Healthy Heart Towpath Walk</b>	Staying active is a healthy life choice and what better place than in a beautiful state park. Portions of the Blackstone Canal Towpath are designated as an easy 1 mile Healthy Heart Hike. Pick up a self-guided towpath brochure in the visitor center and get out often for this enjoyable walk that offers diverse scenery along the way.



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## PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

<b>Brown Bag Lunch Along the Blackstone</b>	Pack a lunch and join us in the heated “bull pen” -now a conference room at River Bend Farm Visitor Center. Watch an episode or two of “Along the Blackstone”, an award winning series of videos by the Rangers of the National Park Service capturing the stories of the Blackstone Valley. This month we will be featuring storytelling, inspiring you to offer your own stories for family gatherings and winter celebrations.
<b>Canal Walk</b>	Brown Bag Lunch is followed by a walk along the Blackstone Canal’s historic towpath to continue the theme of the day and listen to stories about the valley’s rich history. During inclement weather, we will browse the upstairs exhibit level and artifacts in the barn’s hayloft.
<b>Evergreen Walk</b>	Hemlock, Norway spruces, white pine...view, identify, and appreciate the park’s coniferous and evergreen plants on this winter-is-coming walk. Meet at Visitor Center, all ages welcome.
<b>Hike to Goat Hill Lock</b>	This 2 mile hike uncovers some interesting stories in stone and follows the changes in the landscape along the Blackstone Canal, stone arch bridges, an early stone quarry site and remnants of one of the best preserved canal locks. Moderate hike with roots and rocks along the path. Meet at Visitor Center, all ages welcome.
<b>Kiddleidoscope Story Time</b>	Nature Story time continues through the late fall and winter season! Join us in the heated meeting room for nature stories, followed by a craft activity and a short outdoor nature walk. Meets rain or shine- during inclement weather, outdoor discoveries will be substituted by a scavenger hunt in the unheated hayloft of River Bend Farm Visitor Center. Bundle up and get young children out and enjoying nature!
<b>Meadow Stroll</b>	Take an easy stroll through the meadow paths of what was once a pasture. Find the birch grove and take in the seasonal changes as we walk out the banks of the Blackstone River and enjoy all the season has to offer. Meet at Visitor Center, all ages welcome.
<b>Nature Journals and Sun Prints</b>	Slow down and enjoy reading the landscape, take time to observe the natural world and sketch or write your thoughts down. Supplies provided to make your own journal and sun print. Sun prints are made from placing objects on photo sensitive paper. A great way to preserve nature images! Meet at Visitor Center, all ages welcome.



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<b>Tree Walk</b>	Take a look at River Bend Farm's agricultural past as we identify some common and not so common trees. Now that the trees are unobstructed by foliage, take up the challenge to test your tree ID skills as we take a tree walk around the property and lend a hand in marking maple trees for spring's maple sugaring season! Meet at Visitor Center. Easy walk along grassy areas under 1 mile.
<b>Watching Wildlife</b>	Discover tracks, scat and signs that wildlife leaves behind; learn what wild things live at the park and what to look for before you head out on the trail! Meet in visitor Center

## SPECIAL EVENTS

<b>First Holiday Night</b>	Enjoy this family holiday Celebration at the Uxbridge Town Common located at 21 South Main Street and Douglas St Uxbridge, MA 01569; with a Santa Parade starting at 4:30pm and participating businesses and organizations throughout the town of Uxbridge. Free events and activities include: open houses, live music, storytelling, refreshments and a huge light displays and trolley rides to the Blackstone River & Canal Heritage State Park.
<b>Solstice Sunrise Walk</b>	Join us for a guided sunrise walk and enjoy the landscape of the fields, canal and river at its seasonal best. Refresh and regenerate on a easy stroll as we celebrate the lengthening of days in the coming weeks as take in all that nature has to offer at sunrise. To check status during inclement weather, email <a href="mailto:blackstone.heritage@state.ma.us">blackstone.heritage@state.ma.us</a> or call 508-278-7604.